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VIA FACSIMILE - 15 PAGES (Including This Cover)

Commissioner for Patents

MAIL STOP: Amendment

P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

TRANSMITTED TO USPTO MAIN FACSIMILE NO. 703-872-9306

RE: Nobuyoshi ANDO et al., US Appl'n No. 10/020,116

Att'y Docket No. 500.40994X00

Examiner A.B. Hollar, AU 2142, USPTO Conf. No. 5809

SUBMISSION OF AMENDMENT/PTO-1449

Sir:

Applicant hereby submits the attached AMENDMENT (13 pages) AND

PTO-1449 (1 page) in the above-noted application.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION:

1 hereby certify that the attached AMENDMENT (13 pages) AND PTO-1449 (1 page) are being FORMALLY TRANSMITTED via the USPTO Main Facsimile No. 703-872-9306 on 9 May 2005.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant

Nobuyoshi ANDO et al.

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Examiner

A.B. Hollar

Conf. No.

5809

AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

9 May 2005

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed 9 February 2005 in connection with the above-identified application, the following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted.

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.121 in the Final Rule effective 30 July 2003, and as revised in the Final Rule effective 21 October 2004, each section of amendment begins on a new page, and changes are shown by strike-through (or double brackets where appropriate) and underlining to indicate deletions and additions, respectively. A complete listing of all claims ever presented in the application is given with the current status of each claim, and only the text of all pending and withdrawn claims is presented in full, with those pending/withdrawn claims not being amended herein being presented in clean version.